# **International Festival**

# Promising Practices Making It Happen

## Lynhurst 7th & 8th Grade Center is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** Lynhurst 7th & 8th Grade Center, in the MSD of Wayne Township, on the southwest side of Indianapolis.

### **OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** Lynhurst

Center serves a diverse population of over 1,200 students. Our diversity consists of approximately 20.3% Black, 30% Latino, 48% Caucasian, and the remainder is made up of many other cultures from all over the world.

**OUR TEACHERS** We have over 80 certified teachers who understand and celebrate the wonderful diversity of this school. They know we serve students and families from every part of the globe.

#### **OUR PROMISING PRACTICE 2016**

marked the fourth and largest Lynhurst Center International Festival. It is a schoolwide celebration designed to build cultural understanding by celebrating each and every unique culture that makes up our school family. This year, we estimate over 1,000 of our students, families, and community members participated in the celebration! Activities included dancing, singing, Magic show, student dance groups, Henna painting, face painting, representatives from Japan, Israel, The Chinese Education Connection, Governor's Office, Immigrant Welcome Center, Indiana Latino Institute, trivia competition, flag coloring, "Cats from Around the World," Ethiopian coffee sampling, and other food samples from around the world, and a 3 v 3 soccer tournament.

OUR STEPS The festival was organized and led by our ELL teaching staff, aided by teachers, parents, and students. Students spent the entire year creating displays, projects, activities, and decorations. We are planning for the festival to continue to grow by expanding community participation.

**IN OUR OWN WORDS** "To become more aware, open-minded and accepting towards the world around us." —Asiya Z. Ehsan, 8th grade, "It is important to learn about other cultures because you can explore the other cultures to learn more about our world." —Mace Chope, 7th grade, "We are members of one human family, and we need to celebrate and embrace our differences." —Maureen Hoffman-Wehmeier, "To understand we are all together in the human family." —Jamie Goodwin, executive director of Global Indiana, and her son Theo. More information about our 2016 International Festival can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/jazg5s3